3rd August 1955]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have already said that the matter is under consideration."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

## II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* PRINTING OF VOTERS' LIST OF GUDALUR TALUK IN TAMIL.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri M. Narayana Kurup has given notice of the following adjournment motion :—

'I move that the business of the Assembly stands adjourned to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, viz., the situation that has arisen as a result of the Government Order to print the voters' list of Gudalur taluk in Tamil instead of in Malayalam.'

I wish to tell the House that he has also given notice of a question on the same subject. It has been sent to the Department and an answer is awaited. I wish to know from the hon. Member how the adjournment motion comes within the scope of Rule 41 of the Assembly Rules."

* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" We are to-day functioning in a composite State and repeated assurances have been given on the floor of this House that so long as the present set-up continues, the component parts will be treated not only justly but generously. The fact mentioned here is one of recent occurrence. While we do not want to anticipate any decision of the States Reorganization Commission, it is my submission that in the interval nothing should be done, especially by those in authority, to create any misunderstanding or anxiety or to disturb the *status quo*. Now, Sir, if my information is correct, in this taluk, the medium of instruction was Malayalam. The court language was Malayalam and the voters' list till now was prepared in Malayalam. Now, very recently, I understand that it has been ordered to be printed in Tamil. Therefore, it is quite contrary to the assurances given and it was a matter that took place when the House was not sitting. Therefore it is that I have sought protection under rule 41. This is a matter for which the Government are responsible, it is a matter of recent occurrence and it is a matter with which the public are concerned." 4-30 p.m.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I do not want to intervene just now before hearing the facts of the case, whether such an order has been passed or not."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am obliged to the hon. Member for the sermon he has preached to the Government with reference to the attitude we should take pending the decision of the States Reorganization Commission. But, unfortunately, the fact relied upon by him is not correct and he has rushed forward with a motion even without asking me whether such an order has been passed. Therefore, it is likely to lead to misunderstandings amongst the public. Therefore, I would like to give the facts of the case.

" The electoral rolls of Gudalur taluk in the Nilgiris district were so far printed in Malayalam alone. On a representation from the Town Congress Committee of Gudalur, the Collector of the Nilgiris, recommended that the rolls may be printed both in Malayalam and Tamil from this year onwards as a good number of Tamils are living in this area. The 1951 Census enumeration slips relating to Gudalur taluk were recently resorted for extracting villagewise language figures and it was found therefrom that there was no linguistic group which had an absolute majority, that persons in the taluk speaking Tamil as their mother-tongue form 21·7 per cent of the total population while the percentage of those speaking Malayalam is 48·3. The other languages spoken in the taluk are—

Kannada 12·4 per cent.

Telugu 1·5 per cent.

Other languages 16·1 per cent.

The Election Commission was generally following the principle that the electoral roll should be printed in a second language in all tracts wherever the second language is spoken by more than 20 per cent of the population of the tract and in this case the Tamil population was 21·7 per cent. Following this principle, the Government considered that the electoral roll of Gudalur taluk should be prepared in Tamil also. On the recommendation of this Government, the Election Commission has, under the rules, directed the preparation of the Assembly and Parliamentary rolls at Gudalur taluk in Malayalam and in Tamil in this year's revision."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I think the hon. Member is not pressing his motion."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The statement speaks for itself and I have nothing to add."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Next item on the agenda."

### III.—DISCUSSION ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS—*cont.*

MR. SPEAKER :—" Discussion on the Governor's Address will continue. Amendments have been given notice of to the motion of thanks to the Governor. I thought I could select one or two amendments. But the amendments vary in substance. Therefore, I have decided to allow all the amendments to be moved formally and seconded. Then we will have a discussion both on the motion and the amendments thereto."

The following amendments were moved by the hon. Members concerned and duly seconded :—

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" *Add* at the end the following :—

*' but regret to note that the promised comprehensive agrarian reforms are to be postponed indefinitely '*."